

# DRAFT

Watershed Assessment Group Minutes  
Zoom May 12, 2021

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Committee members present: Mike Cox, Linda Murken, Amelia Schoeneman, Margaret Jaynes, Scott Wall, Darren Moon, Matt Boeck, Keith Morgan, Sandra King, Leanne Harter

Mike Cox called the meeting to order.

## **I. Approval of Agenda**

There was some discussion on Ames flood mitigation action on the loway Creek by South Duff Ave.

## **II. Learning Moment – none**

## **III. Review Meeting Notes from prior meetings – March 9, 2021, April 28, 2021**

Jaynes made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Second by Schoeneman. All members voted ‘aye’ and the motion carried and minutes were approved.

## **IV. Old Business**

### **A. Implementation Matrix Update to Board of Supervisors**

The next main activity for the group will be to present to the Story County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>

Reviewed “Watershed Assessment” presentation

- History of group
- FTE position – watershed coordinator
- Group membership
- Goal Statement
- Priorities (low, medium, high) (Morgan will rearrange order)
- Schoeneman – will discuss “regulatory” components
- Cox – will briefly discuss mitigation banking
- Cox – briefly discuss remnants (2.5) and 2.6 and 2.7. also discuss Polk County actions
- 2.8 drainage district – Wall and Murken. Discuss the rules we have to follow (Murken)
  - Some landowners may take advantage of opportunities
- 2.9 Cox
- Jaynes – would like to discuss maintaining septic systems somewhere (2.13 maybe?) 2.17
  - Jaynes should discuss how a landowner found out their system was in bad shape (Murken)
- 2.11 – Murken
- 2.12 – Schoeneman
- Murken – 30 minutes for presentation maybe? Not sure on other agenda items though

# DRAFT

- Cox – can spend a little longer if needed and if have time
- 2.13 – Cox and Jaynes
- 2.14 – Harter or Schoeneman
- 2.15 – Jaynes – no updates
- 2.16 – Municipal decision mostly.
  - Nevada will plug a well this summer (Jaynes)
  - Cox – will add some more info
- 2.17 Jaynes – septic systems
- 3.1 same as before
- 3.2 Infrastructure. Schoeneman – stormwater ordinances

Murken – we should figure out ways to make the most impact through actions

“Best bang for our buck” – the committee agreed that this was a great idea

Murken – we need to prioritize what we need to have Watershed Coordinator work on. Don’t want to dump a bunch of stuff on this person. Cox agrees. It’s possible that the new person may lead the WAWG group.

Harter – we should clean up official names of group members at a future board meeting. In addition, we should list positions and not personal names, in case people change.

Schoeneman – she brought Andrea on board since she has great wetland knowledge/experience

Jaynes – are there recommendations from EOR?

There was some group membership/history discussion for presentation to BOS

Jaynes – is it too much info? Should we trim some slides?

Murken – if we split up the sections it should go better

Schoeneman – should we all participate through Zoom?

Cox and Schoeneman decided to attend in person

Harter will drive presentation

**V. New Business – none**

**VI. Staff Updates and Assignments**

**VII. Other Items Not on the Agenda**

Dotson (Prairie Valley) – Cox working with Ames to possibly make part of this area a wetland. However, there are some hurdles with that. After survey, only way to get water is through pumping – most likely.

# DRAFT

Ames is still interested in moving forward possibly. No one wants to cause harm to another wetland or take cropland out of production.

Murken – are we trying to fix a problem or find water for a wetland?

Cox – we are mainly trying to demonstrate good practices

Ames is more interested in nutrient trading

Murken – there are positives and negatives of this project. Seems like a good idea, but might not be a good project (from data from engineering studies)

Hickory Grove discussion:

Cox – The City of Colo will hopefully agree to connect sewer to their municipal system and the Iowa Regional Utility Association is reviewing the plan

Dumping from R/V systems could harm system

Jaynes – it would make sense to split into two waste streams and haul away the R/V dump

Murken – wanted to thank Jaynes for all of her service to the county. Unfortunately, she will be retiring in July. We would very much like to continue to have her participate in water quality issues in Story County.

## **VIII. Next Meeting Time and Date**

Next meeting will be in June

## **IX. Adjournment**